

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Arai et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,017,672 (“Arai”).

Arai discloses a heat sensitive recording material having formed on a support a heat-sensitive recording layer containing a diazonium salt and a coupling component, where the diazonium compound is represented by formula (1) (abstract). Arai discloses a preferable diazonium salt compound represented by formula (2) (col. 2, line 65 to col. 3, line 16). In particular, the Examiner points to the coupling components, such as C-19 to C-25, in Arai (col. 18, lines 10-60).

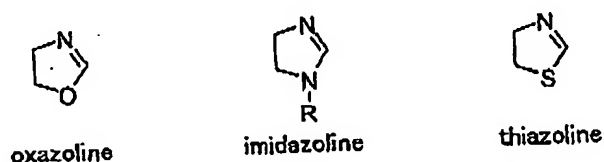
Applicants submit that the coupling components C-19 to C-25 disclosed in column 18, lines 10-68 in Arai are outside the coupler as defined in claim 1 of the present invention because none of the compounds disclosed in Arai is an “azolinyl acetic acid derivative,” as in Applicants’ claimed invention.

Specifically, C-19 to C-25 have an additional double bond in the heterocycle that also belongs to the benzene ring. Due to the presence of the additional double bond, C-19 to C-25 are classified as “azolyl acetic acid derivatives,” not an “azolinyl acetic acid derivative.”

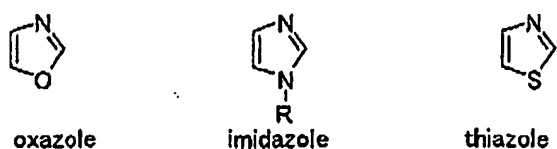
In the nomenclature of heterocyclic compounds, the name of a monovalent group obtained by removing one hydrogen atom from the cycle of a heterocyclic compound is the name of the original heterocyclic compound followed by “yl” (if there is the letter “e” just before “yl,”

then the “e” is omitted). For example, a monovalent group obtained by removing one H from the cycle of pyrroline is pyrrolinyl, while a monovalent group obtained by removing one H from the cycle of triazole is triazolyl. According to this rule of naming, C-19 to C-25 disclosed in Arai are called “benzoxazolyl acetic acid derivatives.” In contrast, an “azolinyl” is a monovalent group that is obtained by removing one H from an azoline. The scope of the azoline derivatives includes derivatives having such a skeleton as oxazoline, imidazoline, thiazoline or the like.

Examples of azoline derivatives include:



The azole derivatives have, for example, the following structures, and are clearly different from azoline derivatives.



In view of the foregoing, it is clear that Arai does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

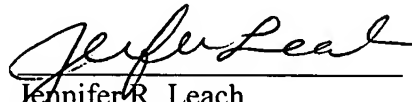
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/773,366
Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer R. Leach
Registration No. 54,257

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 4, 2007